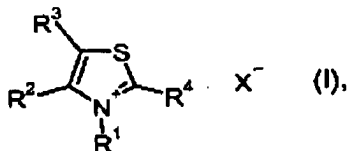


IN THE CLAIMS:

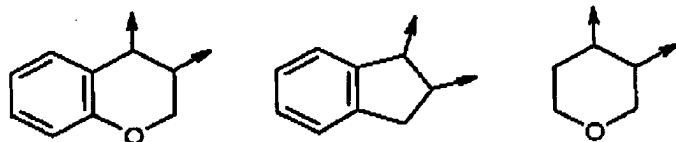
Please cancel Claims 4, 6-10, and 12-13.

1. (Original) A compound of the formula (I)



in which

- R^1 represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy,
- R^2 represents C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO₂, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyloxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy, benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or pyrrolyl, thienyl, naphthyl, or benzothiophenyl, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl,
- R^3 represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, or
- R^2 and R^3 together represent $-(CH_2)_n-$ that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO₂, carboxyl, carbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO₂-, C₁-C₄-alkyl-, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas



where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and

n represents 3, 4 or 5,

R^4 represents bromine or chlorine, and

X^- represents chloride, bromide, iodide, hydrogen sulfate, $\frac{1}{2}$ equivalent of sulfate, sulfate, hexachloroantimonate, methanesulfonate,

trifluoromethanesulfonate, *p*-toluenesulfonate, tetrafluoroborate,

tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate,

excluding the compounds 2-bromo-3-ethyl-4-methylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate and 2-bromo-3-ethyl-4-methylthiazolium hexachloroantimonate, 2-chloro-3-ethyl-4-methylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate and 2-chloro-3-ethyl-4-methylthiazolium hexachloroantimonate, 2-bromo-3-methyl-4-phenylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate, 2-chloro-3-ethyl-4,5-dimethylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate, and 2-chloro-3,4-dimethylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate.

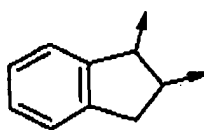
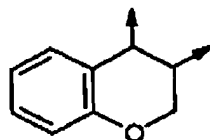
2. (Original) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1 wherein

R^1 represents methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, *n*- or *i*-propyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or *n*- or *i*-propoxy,

R^2 represents methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, isobutyl, or benzyl or phenyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, *n*- or *i*-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or *n*- or *i*-propoxy,

R^3 represents hydrogen or methyl, or

R^2 and R^3 together represent $-(CH_2)_n-$ substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or carbonyl or the groups having the formulas



, and

n represents 3 or 4,

R^4 represents bromine, and

X⁻ represents bromide, ½ equivalent of sulfate, sulfite, SbCl₆⁻, mesylate, triflate, tosylate, tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate.

3. (Original) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1 wherein

R¹ represents methyl, ethyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine,

R² represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, or phenyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, or ethyl,

R³ represents hydrogen, or

R² and R³ together represent -(CH₂)_n- that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, or carbonyl, and

X⁻ represents bromide, ½ equivalent of sulfate, sulfite, or tetrafluoroborate.

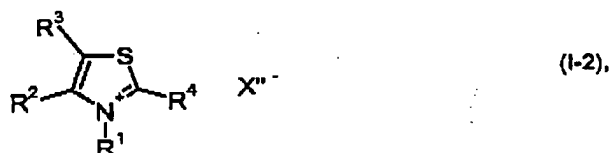
4. Cancelled

5. (Original) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1 wherein

R⁴ represents bromine.

6-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A compound of the formula (I-2)

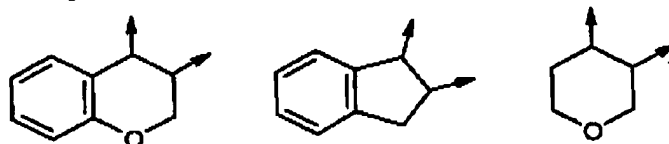


in which

R¹ represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

R² represents C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO₂, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyloxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy, benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-

alkoxy, or pyrrolyl, thienyl, naphthyl, or benzothiophenyl, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, R³ represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, or R² and R³ together represent -(CH₂)_n- that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO₂, carboxyl, carbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO₂-, C₁-C₄-alkyl-, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas



where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and n represents 3, 4 or 5,

R⁴ represents bromine or chlorine, and

X^{m-} represents tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate, with the exception of compounds in which R⁴ represents bromine and R² represents CH₃ when R³ represents hydrogen or CH₃; in which R⁴ represents chlorine and R² represents CH₃ when R³ represents hydrogen; and in which R⁴ represents bromine and R² represents ethyl when R³ represents hydrogen.

12-13. (Cancelled)